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Trump threatens to invoke Insurrection Act to quell anti-ICE protests in Minnesota

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Nardine Saad

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Reuters

A protesting community member attempts to protect themselves as federal agents fire munitions and pepper balls in north

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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said an officer opened fire after he was attacked by three Venezuelan nationals with a shovel and broom handle.

Tensions have been running high in Minneapolis since an immigration agent fatally shot Renee Nicole Good, 37, last week, sparking nationwide protests.

Watch: Noem on shovel attack, Trump and the Insurrection Act

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Trump has previously said he might invoke the 1807 law elsewhere without ever doing so.

The president posted on Truth Social that he would use the law if Minnesota officials failed to stop the "professional agitators and insurrectionists".

DHS said Wednesday's shooting occurred after a car chase involving a Venezuelan national, Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis, who was previously convicted for driving without a licence.

The agency statement said after the pursuit, Sosa-Celis got out of his vehicle and fought with the federal agent.

Two more illegal immigrants from Venezuela, Alfredo Alejandro Ajorna and Gabriel Alejandro Hernandez-Ledezma, came out of a nearby apartment, according to the agency.

All three attacked the law enforcement officer with a snow shovel and broom handle, DHS said, before the agent opened fire, hitting Sosa-Celis in the leg.

The agent was taken to hospital. Sosa-Celis was also taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries. All three Venezuelans were arrested.

"What we saw last night in Minneapolis was an attempted murder of federal law

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On Wednesday night, clashes broke out between protesters and law enforcement in the Hawthorne area of Minneapolis, near the scene of the shooting.

City police chief Brian O'Hara said his officers were hit by fireworks, ice and snowballs.

Several vehicles belonging to the federal government were damaged in the disorder, and property was stolen from inside the vehicles, according to the FBI.

The FBI said on Thursday that it was offering a reward of up to $100,000 for information leading to the "recovery of stolen government property and/or the arrest of individuals responsible for the destruction and theft of government property".

Around 3,000 federal officers have been deployed to Minnesota in recent weeks.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, who has demanded ICE leave the city, said on X on Wednesday: "No matter what led up to this incident, the situation we are seeing in our city is not sustainable."

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, a Democrat, made a direct appeal to the president on Thursday posting on X: "Let's turn the temperature down."

Walz, who has previously called ICE a "modern-day Gestapo", told Minnesotans: "We cannot fan the flames of chaos."

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Trump has said Operation Metro Surge will continue in Minnesota after a federal judge on Wednesday denied Minnesota prosecutors a temporary restraining order against US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

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Tensions over immigration enforcement have been running high in the city since the fatal shooting on 7 January of 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent.

The Trump administration says the ICE agent acted in self-defence, while local officials argue the woman posed no danger.

Videos of the incident show ICE agents approaching a car, which is in the middle of the street.

As Good attempts to drive off, one of them at the front of the vehicle points his gun at the driver and fires three shots. The FBI is investigating the incident.

An online fundraiser set up for Good's widow and family has raised more than $1.4m. Another online fundraiser for Jonathan Ross, the ICE agent at the centre of the deadly confrontation, has raised $740,000.

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Watch: Protesters clash with authorities in Minneapolis after ICE shoot man in leg

Federal agent shoots Minneapolis man in leg after shovel attack, officials say
Minnesota sues Trump administration to block immigration agents deployment

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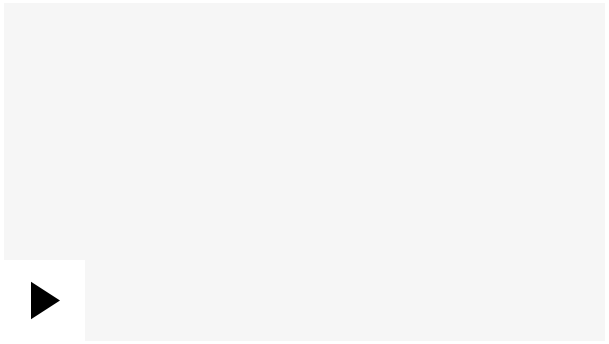

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